Need to Know: Italy/Rome; Florence; and Rome/Madrid Spring Semester with Internship

Objective of the “Need to Know” Document
The Need to Know document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student’s decision to apply for an EAP program. The document is not a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application and other logistical details freely available to students on the UCEAP and BSA website, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment.

The best sources of detailed program information are the UCEAP webpages for these Italy options [http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/italy/Pages/default.aspx](http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/italy/Pages/default.aspx) and the Program Guides [http://eap.ucop.edu/guides/Pages/default.aspx](http://eap.ucop.edu/guides/Pages/default.aspx) from the prior academic cycle.

If any concerns you have are not addressed in the websites, the Program Guide, or this Need to Know document, please contact the BSA Italy adviser.

Adviser Contact Information
For BSA Adviser name, phone, email and drop-in advising hours, visit [http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/contact/advising](http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/contact/advising)

Why Study Italian?
- For career and professional reasons: [http://weloveitalian.org/?page_id=1292](http://weloveitalian.org/?page_id=1292) Italy has the eighth largest economy in the world and the second largest manufacturing surplus in the EU. And so many more good reasons…
- Because it’s popular: [http://www.italiantribune.com/italian-the-worlds-fourth-most-studied-language/](http://www.italiantribune.com/italian-the-worlds-fourth-most-studied-language/)
- It’s easy and fun to take an Italian course at Cal: [http://italian.berkeley.edu/](http://italian.berkeley.edu/) Consider a double-major or minor!

Financial Aid and Scholarships for Study Abroad
- View UCB financial aid details and many scholarship opportunities on our webpage: [http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/finances](http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/finances)
- Deadlines to apply for scholarships are earlier than you may think, so do your research now!
- Some scholarships that are good for students going to Italy are:
  - The National Italian-American Foundation (NIAF) offers $2000-$12,000 grants: [http://www.niaf.org/programs/scholarships/](http://www.niaf.org/programs/scholarships/) for details. You don’t have to be Italian-American…
  - The UCB Classics Department offers various prizes and awards for travel and study in Italy and certain other appropriate countries. See this Classics Department webpage for details [http://www.classics.berkeley.edu/resources/undergraduates](http://www.classics.berkeley.edu/resources/undergraduates).
  - A new UCEAP scholarship has been established for Berkeley students by the Lucheta family, creator of Torani syrups. There is no application to fill out. Recipients will be chosen based on financial aid criteria and notified of selection.
  - Duttenhaver Scholarships for UCEAP year-long programs - [http://eap.ucop.edu/Scholarships/Pages/Duttenhaver_DanWise.aspx](http://eap.ucop.edu/Scholarships/Pages/Duttenhaver_DanWise.aspx)
  - Two UCEAP Jasmine Jahanshahi Scholarships in the amount of $2,500 each are available yearly for students on semester or year-long UCEAP immersion programs. For full details, see [http://eap.ucop.edu/Scholarships/Pages/JasmineJahanshahi.aspx](http://eap.ucop.edu/Scholarships/Pages/JasmineJahanshahi.aspx).
  - UC Berkeley’s Institute of International Studies Merit Scholarships – non-need-based scholarships of up to $2000 each to support undergraduate research (can be done abroad) in any area of international studies (deadline is in November) - [http://iis.berkeley.edu/content/undergraduate-merit-scholarships](http://iis.berkeley.edu/content/undergraduate-merit-scholarships)

NEW OPTION: “Art, Food, and Society” offered at the UC Center Rome in Spring Semesters
This new UCEAP option will begin in Spring 2017. The “Rome Through the Ages” program that has run for more than a decade at the UC Center Rome will continue to be offered in Fall Semesters. UCB students may participate in the semester version of the Art, Food, and Society program only – not the Winter quarter version. For details, see [http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/italy/Pages/art-food-society-uc-center-rome-semester.aspx](http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/italy/Pages/art-food-society-uc-center-rome-semester.aspx)
FAIRLY NEW OPTION: “European Transformations” Spring Semester with Internship option in Rome/Madrid

Spring 2013 was the first time this UCEAP-created multi-site option was offered. Details of the program are available in the link in the first paragraph. Please read the webpage above carefully to determine if this option might meet your academic and personal needs.

The program runs from late March until late July. Late arrivals and early departures are not permitted.

The minimum GPA is 2.5. There is no minimum or maximum amount of Italian or Spanish for this program. Language classes are not offered in this option beyond a survival course in each city.

When you are ready to apply, you must decide which city you prefer for the beginning of your program and which for the second portion during which you will conduct your internship. Each combination is possible, but you must choose when you apply. The number of students in each group must be fairly balanced for course and housing purposes, so some students may be shifted to the other group. If you would be just as happy doing your internship in either city, consider choosing Rome, as there is more space there.

For a list of typical internships in Rome and Madrid, see:
http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/Italy/Pages/european_transformations_madrid_rome_semester.aspx?t=5  Be sure to click on the link for More Opportunities in Rome and Madrid.

When applying, look for it under “Multi-Site” on the BSA Application webpage:
http://stg.studyabroad.berkeley.edu/eap/how-to-apply On the UCEAP MyEAP on-line application, choose either Italy or Spain and this option will be included in that country’s list of options.

UCEAP Alumnae

UCEAP alums are also a good resource for information about the program. If you would like to be put in touch with alums, simply send the Italy EAP Adviser an email addressed to the alums (e.g., “Dear alums, I have some questions about the program…” ) and the message will be forwarded to them. Include only 2-3 of your most important questions in your message.

Here is an excellent blog from this past spring 2015 program in Rome by Cal student Michael Drummond. His photos are fabulous and he writes very thoughtfully about his life in Italy. https://dromand.wordpress.com/

Competitiveness of these Options

Rome and Florence have not been impacted recently. Most students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements and submit a well-prepared application with an articulate Statement of Purpose have a good chance of being selected.

The Madrid/Rome Internship Spring has very few spaces so has had more applicants than spaces, especially for the Madrid internship direction, so alternates will be designated initially if that occurs in future. Rome Through the Ages is a particularly good alternative if you want to do an internship, though the courses will be geared more toward History and Art History, etc, rather than the labor market, current economics and globalization courses in the European Transformation Rome/Madrid Internship program. But some students who have done the European Transformations program came to realize that five weeks in one city is not enough to get to know it well before having to move on to the next city for the internship. So give some thought to that observation before choosing the European Transformations option. Also remember that there are only survival language courses in this option.

Grad Students (Florence and immersion options only – Rome and Madrid/Rome are not open to grad students)

Please read the “Graduate Students” link on our website at http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/Pages/GraduateStudents.aspx in order to know what you need to do right away to find out if EAP can work for you, i.e., complete and submit to our office the “Graduate Preliminary Inquiry Form” (GPIF) or the “Graduate Student Agreement” (GSAG.) The GSAG is different from the GPIF. The GSAG is specifically for summer language & culture programs, and it basically confirms that graduate students and their departments are aware that the courses offered on the program are only at the undergraduate level. The GPIF is an academic planning form that graduate students fill out for semester and year programs to confirm with the study center that the EAP program offers graduate courses they will be able to use towards their degree.

Florence Details (“Firenze” in Italian)

Minimum GPA = 2.0. No exceptions. Italian 3 is the maximum language allowed. If you have more than Italian 3, do not apply for Florence; consider applying for an immersion semester or year program instead. Students who begin this program with Italian 3 completed may ask to extend to the immersion option in Spring in Bologna if they have a 2.85 GPA. Feel free to discuss this with the Italy adviser.
Summer vs Semester in Florence
Unless there is a reason why you can study abroad only in the summer, I would encourage you to study abroad for a semester for four reasons. 1. The summer program in Florence lasts only 8 weeks and costs ~$10,500. The semester lasts 17 weeks and costs ~$16,000. Airfare is included in those budgets. So twice as long, but not twice as expensive. 2. Financial aid works normally for a semester, so if you receive full financial aid at Cal, you will receive financial aid to cover the entire UCEAP budget, even if it is higher than Cal. Summer is not considered a regular term, so the financial aid that is available does not always cover the full budget. It varies by student. Visit our study abroad financial aid counselors in 160 Stephens Hall. They can tell you what you are likely to receive for a summer or semester based on your current MyFinAid data. 3. If you study abroad in summer, you can’t get a job to earn money. 4. The longer you can be in Florence, the better your Italian will become, and the more you will learn about the culture. So keep all this in mind as you deliberate about the best timing to study in Florence. Feel free to discuss this with the Italy adviser.

Rome Details (“Roma” in Italian)
Minimum GPA = 2.5. No exceptions. Italian 3 is the maximum language allowed. If you have more than Italian 3, do not apply for Rome; consider applying for an immersion semester or year program in Bologna, or for Madrid/Rome Internship Spring. Students who begin this program with Italian 3 completed may ask to extend to the immersion option in Spring in Bologna if they have a 2.85 GPA. Feel free to discuss this with the Italy adviser.

Graduating seniors are eligible to apply for both programs. They must enroll in a full course load while abroad, however, even if they do not need the courses or units for graduation.

Taking Italian Language Classes P/NP
Italian classes you take at Cal may be taken P/NP, but with your application you must provide a written note from your instructor or the Italian Department stating what your letter grade would have been. It is your responsibility to make arrangements for this without prompting from the Italy adviser or BSA office. This is required even though there is no minimum language requirement or minimum Language GPA for Rome or Florence. A Language GPA must still be calculated and provided to UCEAP by our office.

Learn about Italy before Choosing your Option and Writing your Statement of Purpose
Try http://www.iicsanfrancisco.esteri.it/IIC_SanFrancisco/ for Italian cultural events in the Bay Area. Read the Lonely Planet and other books and on-line resources about its history, politics, art, or culture. A recommended reading list is included in the Program Guides (see top for links.) You should read up on Italy before writing your Statement of Purpose, so you know something about the country and the city in which you want to study. A typical Italian university student knows far more about the U.S. than the typical UC student knows about Italy. You still have time to increase your knowledge before you go there. Take courses next semester about anything related to Italy --- you’ll be glad you did once you arrive in Italy.

Selection Interviews
If you need to be interviewed, you will be notified by the Italy adviser after your application has been reviewed.

Important Dates
In case you are selected, please mark your calendar now for the mandatory 3-4 hour Italy orientation. For Summer, Fall or Year, reserve Saturdays April 23 & 30, 2016 (8 AM to 8 PM, time TBA.) For Spring ’17 reserve Saturday, December 3, 2016 (8 AM to 8 PM, time TBA.) Once the exact date and time have been chosen, you’ll be notified by the Italy adviser.

Critical Passport Details
Your passport must be valid for 3 months beyond the end date of the EAP program --- check the dates on the EAP Italy webpages to check this year’s end dates — your program will be similar.

Also, your MyEAP application name and your passport name must be identical (not just similar!) If there is a discrepancy of even one letter, hyphen, middle initial vs. full middle name, Jr., etc, the Italian consulate will not issue you a visa. Please check your passport name and use precisely that name on your MyEAP on-line application, even if it doesn’t match the name you use at UC Berkeley. If your passport name has an error, either get your passport fixed before you apply for UCEAP, or simply use the incorrect name on your UCEAP application in order to avoid a crisis later on.

Visa Application Prevents Travel Abroad Three Months Prior to Program Start Date
Due to the complicated, bureaucratic student visa application procedures followed by the Italian consulates, you should not make any plans to travel abroad in the three months leading up to the beginning of your program in Italy. The Italian consulates require that EAP students submit their visa application paperwork and their actual passport to them. Thus, you will not have your passport while your visa is being processed. It may be possible to apply for a duplicate US passport, so if you must travel outside of the US during the three months prior to the official start date of your Italy program, you should contact the National Passport Agency to find out how long it will take to get the second passport and
Experience

A.) The first thing to ask yourself when pondering which UCEAP-Italy option to choose is who studied in Italy in the past, you might want to consider other options. Feel free to discuss this with the Italy adviser if whether Catholic or not accept and appreciate this, but if this fact would bother you (as it has bothered a few students Roman Catholic country so Catholic religious symbols and artwork are everywhere. Most students who go to Italy have had a better idea of what to expect. The following several issues are things I have learned during my business trips to Italy in 2002 and 2015. I heard from many students that they “wished that someone had told them about these things before they applied” so that they would have had a better idea of what to expect.

One point about Italy in general may seem obvious, but bears mentioning: On the surface, Italy is an overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country so Catholic religious symbols and artwork are everywhere. Most students who go to Italy (whether Catholic or not) accept and appreciate this, but if this fact would bother you (as it has bothered a few students who studied in Italy in the past,) you might want to consider other options. Feel free to discuss this with the Italy adviser if you have any concerns.

A.) The first thing to ask yourself when pondering which UCEAP-Italy option to choose is what kind of academic experience you want to have while in Italy:

The Rome program will require you to take a regular Italian course (not an intensive course), but the primary academic focus is on courses taught in English by professors from Italy, the US, and other countries. The courses will deal only with Rome and Italy. If you don’t like the course titles mentioned on the UCEAP-Rome webpage’s “Courses and Credits” tab http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/Italy/Pages/UC_center_rome.aspx for Fall or http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/italy/Pages/art-food-society-uc-center-rome-semester.aspx for Spring, or the course descriptions in the MyEAP Course Catalog, then you shouldn’t apply to the Rome programs because those will be the only types of courses offered in this program. The new Spring option’s courses are pending.

These programs are not affiliated with any Roman university, but were created by UC for UC students only. All the non-language courses in this program are upper division and were designed to fulfill breadth and/or major requirements in the corresponding departments. You should consult with your advisers about fulfilling requirements with the Rome courses before you apply to get a sense of whether they will accept specific courses for specific requirements. Use the brief course descriptions that are available in the MyEAP course catalog in these discussions.

Many colleges have accepted various subject courses from Rome to fulfill breadth requirements, but check with yours to inquire. L & S allows the International Studies breadth requirement to be fulfilled by the programs in Florence and Rome (as with all UCEAP options.) For other colleges, check with your college adviser directly about breadth requirements.

Recently UCEAP reduced the number of non-language courses required in the Rome Through the Ages Fall program from three to two, but students are allowed to take three if they wish. Two courses in English plus the Italian language course seem to be a manageable load. The courses are rigorous, however, so you will still need to work hard in order to earn good grades. Some students have complained about this as they felt they shouldn’t have had to work that hard while abroad, but keep in mind that this is a UC program offering UC-quality courses. You will learn a lot, but you will indeed have to study.

If you would like to do an internship for academic credit during your semester in Italy, Rome is an excellent choice, as the study center has an internship coordinator who helps UC students with all aspects of such an undertaking. Please note, however, that an internship cannot substitute for one of the two courses taught in English – it will be over and above those two courses. For more details about internships in Rome, see the Internship tab on http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/italy/Pages/UC_center_rome.aspx For a list of typical internships available in Rome, see http://eap.ucop.edu/Documents/OurPrograms/Italy/UCEAP%20Rome%20Italy%20Internships.pdf

Please note that courses in the Rome program plan field-trips to Vatican-owned buildings and churches. The Vatican expects visitors to wear appropriate attire on the premises (i.e., no micro-mini-skirts, no bare shoulders, bellies, or feet, etc.) Most students have no problem with this expectation, but if you would find it burdensome, you might want to consider other options.

How to Choose: Some Perspective on Rome, Florence, and the Italy Immersion Options

Before you decide to apply to the Florence Language and Culture program or the Rome program in English, please keep in mind a few things about the cities and the programs. We want you to make an informed decision regarding Florence and Rome (or the various fall and year immersion options UCEAP has in Italy that require only one year of Italian due to the availability of the pre-ILP in Florence for the second year of Italian). If you will have completed Italian 2 or 3 by the end of spring semester, seriously consider a full immersion option, as it will greatly enhance your Italian proficiency and cultural knowledge. Though a greater challenge, the rewards are greater as well, especially if you intend to pursue graduate studies or a career related to Italy or the European Union. Feel free to discuss this further with the Italy adviser.

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Please note that courses in the Rome program plan field-trips to Vatican-owned buildings and churches. The Vatican expects visitors to wear appropriate attire on the premises (i.e., no micro-mini-skirts, no bare shoulders, bellies, or feet, etc.) Most students have no problem with this expectation, but if you would find it burdensome, you might want to consider other options.
In Florence, you will take only intensive Italian language classes at the beginning or intermediate level plus one upper division culture course taught in English. The culture courses offered are on topics related to Florence. See the EAP Florence webpage for further details (start from http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/italy/Pages/default.aspx). The specific number of non-language courses offered each term will be determined by the number of participants, but will vary from 2 to 4 courses. You will not know which courses will be offered until after you have been selected, but at least 2 of the courses listed on the Florence webpage’s Courses and Credits tab will be offered each term.

All the non-language courses in this program are upper division and were designed to fulfill breadth and possibly major requirements in the corresponding departments. You should consult with your major advisers about fulfilling requirements with the Florence courses before you apply to get a sense of whether they will accept specific courses for specific requirements. Use the brief course descriptions that are available in the MyEAP course catalog in these discussions.

Many colleges have accepted various subject courses from Florence to fulfill breadth requirements, but check with yours to inquire. L & S allows the International Studies breadth requirement to be fulfilled by the programs in Florence and Rome (as with all UCEAP options.) For other colleges, check with your college adviser directly about breadth requirements.

Expect this program to be academically challenging. Please don’t go to Florence with the idea that you won’t have to study hard. You will still have a good deal of free time for fun and for exploring Florence and Tuscany, but to do well academically, you’ll need to devote sufficient effort. Some students were not expecting such a rigorous program, even though they were informed before they applied. It is indeed an “intensive” language program.

A few students with no prior knowledge of Italian who participated in the Language and Culture program in Florence complained that they were at a disadvantage in their beginning Italian classes in Florence. Other UCEAP students in their class either knew a little Italian somehow or were familiar with another Romance language due to high school Spanish or French classes or due to growing up in a Spanish-speaking family. The same thing happens in beginning Italian classes at Cal, so this situation is not unique to the UCEAP program. If you have no background whatsoever in Italian or any other Romance language, you might want to buy the Italian text used at Cal and do some self-study before departure. Once in Florence, you may have to study more than students who do have such a background, so please take that into consideration before choosing this intensive Language and Culture program. Language classes in Florence must be taken for letter grades that will transfer back to your UC transcript.

In the immersion options in Bologna, EAP students take regular courses taught in Italian alongside the Italians. Students can take any course offered at those universities, as long as they have the appropriate pre-requisites. Only Italian 2 is necessary in order to participate in the Fall and Year immersion options in Bologna because of the pre-Intensive Language Program (pre-ILP) in Florence in July/August. It covers the second year of Italian so that students can then continue on with the regular Intensive Language Program in Bologna where they will study for the Fall or Year. There is no pre-ILP for the Spring immersion options, so students must have completed Italian 4 before beginning the Spring immersion options. (BusAd and Econ majors going to Bocconi in Milano may now choose to take all their subject courses in English, so need no prior Italian. If they want to take any of them in Italian, they will need through Italian 4, however, as there is no pre-ILP option for Bocconi.)

Please think carefully about the major differences among the UCEAP options in terms of academic offerings so that you understand clearly what it is you will be studying once you get to Italy.

B.) The next thing to ask yourself is what kind of classmates you want to have in Italy:

In Florence, the academic program is just for UCEAP students. There are no Italian or non-UC international students in the classes. Some students appreciate that this makes it easier for the instructors to teach the language because everyone is at approximately the same level and has similar challenges learning the Italian language. Other students find it very frustrating to spend all their class time with other California students, even if they’re from all 10 UC campuses. This classroom arrangement is the same in the Rome program. In the immersion options, students take the regular classes along with Italian students and are fully integrated into normal Italian academic life.

C.) Another major factor to consider is where you will live, and with whom:

Most UCEAP students in Florence will live with other UCEAP students. Homestays with Italian individuals or families are another option, and recommended for students who would like to have a closer encounter with normal Italian life. In Rome, most UCEAP students will live with other UCEAP students either in a big apartment building (residenza) or in apartments throughout the historic area of Rome. Homestays are also available. In the immersion options it is very likely that UCEAP students will live in apartments or dorms with Italian or other international students from around the world. Homestays are uncommon in Bologna.
It is not possible to guarantee which kind of living arrangement you will receive during your time in Italy. For some students housing is a very important factor; for others, it isn’t. Please consider how important the housing options will be to your enjoyment of a summer or semester in Italy.

D.) Another important issue to ponder is what kind of city you want to live in:

**Florence** is a beautiful medium-sized city famous for its history and great art treasures. Despite its moderate size, what it offers is so vast and remarkable that boredom is unlikely to occur. It can be somewhat difficult to interact with the locals, however, as many Florentines prefer to speak English because of the crowds of tourists who visit almost year-round. The UC study center is not affiliated with any Italian university in Florence so meeting Italian college students can be challenging. Volunteer opportunities can get students engaged with local Italians, if they wish. Meeting other study abroad students is inevitable, however, as Florence is one of the most popular study abroad destinations in Italy, if not all of Europe. It is possible to escape the foreign influx, but it will require intention and effort on your part. Please consider whether a medium-sized city often full of tourists and study abroad students is the appropriate locale for you to fulfill your study abroad goals. Here is an article from the Los Angeles Times about Florence: [http://www.latimes.com/travel/la-tr-florence-20110717,0,4596462.story](http://www.latimes.com/travel/la-tr-florence-20110717,0,4596462.story)

**Rome** is a vast cosmopolitan city that also has huge numbers of tourists and study abroad students, but it is more able to absorb them due to its size. Because of heavy traffic, Rome is not a quiet, cozy city, but it offers millennia of eye-opening art and architecture. The UC study center is not affiliated with any Italian university in Rome so meeting Italian college students can be challenging. Volunteer and internship opportunities can get students engaged with local Italians, if they wish. Please consider whether a large, heavily-touristed metropolis is the appropriate locale for you to fulfill your study abroad goals. Here is a link with numerous articles from the New York Times about Rome: [http://intransit.blogs.nytimes.com/category/rome/](http://intransit.blogs.nytimes.com/category/rome/)

**Bologna and Milano** are very different places, but what they all offer UCEAP students is full integration into the regular life of the city because the students who go there study at regular Italian universities and often live with Italian students, thus greatly improving their ability to interact in a deep and meaningful way with the local people and culture. Please consider whether you might be willing to pursue the challenge of experiencing Italy in this way. If you’ll have at least Italian 2 before summer, an immersion option in Bologna is within the realm of possibility! Bocconi in Milano (open to BusAd and Econ majors only) now requires no prior Italian and many of the Italian and international students there speak English so interaction with them is easy, even without Italian.

E.) Another big issue for students is how easy it is to travel from various cities:

First, a note of caution about traveling abroad just before your UCEAP-Italy program begins: Due to the complicated, bureaucratic student visa application procedures followed by the Italian consulates, you should not make any plans to travel abroad in the three months leading up to the beginning of your program in Italy. The Italian consulates require that UCEAP students submit their visa application paperwork and their actual passport to them. Thus, you will not have your passport while your visa is being processed. It may be possible to apply for a duplicate US passport, so if you must travel outside of the US during the three months prior to the official start date of your Italy program, you should contact the National Passport Agency to find out how long it will take to get the second passport and how to apply for it, just in case you need to. Detailed instructions on the student visa application process for Italy will be included in an e-mail from the systemwide office of EAP (UCEAP) near Santa Barbara after selection. Do not purchase a plane ticket or make any other irreversible travel plans until you have received those instructions.

Exception to the above: Florence summer, as no visa is required for Italy programs shorter than 90 days. If you want to do both Florence summer plus a Fall program, however, you must apply for each separately, and apply for a visa for the Fall option.

From Florence, travel to nearby towns and cities is quite feasible on weekends by bus and train. Weekend travel to distant cities is not encouraged during the program, however, because it is difficult to get back to Florence in time for class on Monday morning. The super-cheap airlines tend not to fly out of Florence, but Pisa and Rome. Classes are held five mornings per week and there are other required events and excursions in the afternoons and evenings. The Florence program has a strict attendance policy that limits the number of classes students can miss before being sent back to California or having their grades docked. What this means is that you should plan to do any extensive long-distance traveling only after the program ends or during breaks. One advantage of participating in the spring option (rather than fall) is that the semester ends in early May so that you have a long summer to travel around Europe after it's over. By then you'll be a pro at getting yourself around, and you can even play tour guide for your friends and family members who might want to visit Italy.
Though Rome has a Monday through Thursday class schedule, there are also course-related excursions on some Fridays and weekends. Rome’s absentee policy is like Florence’s, so travel to distant destinations should be avoided on weekends. Fortunately, there are many wonderful places to visit that are quite close by to Rome, and there is at least one lengthy break each semester that allows for travel farther from Rome. One advantage of participating in the spring option (rather than fall) is that the semester ends in early May so that you have a long summer to travel around Europe after it’s over. By then you’ll be a pro at getting yourself around, and you can even play tour guide for your friends and family members who might want to visit Italy.

The immersion options have more flexibility in terms of class schedule, since you choose your own courses. Year-long programs also have fairly long breaks built in to the academic calendar that facilitate travel to far-away cities.

**Conclusion:** If, after reading the information above as well as the separate Need to Know for Italy Immersion, you are still uncertain about which option would be best for you, please feel free to talk with the Italy adviser about the various possibilities after you have read the UCEAP Italy website information carefully.

http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/Italy/Pages/default.aspx

Grazie mille! Buona fortuna!